Ministry of Justice and Attorney General

Plan for 2012-13

Government of Saskatchewan

PLAN FOR 2012-13

Statement from the Minister

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Plan for 2012-13. This Plan aligns with the Government of Saskatchewan's Direction and Budget for 2012-13, built around *Keeping the Saskatchewan Advantage*.

In the pages that follow, our Ministry's Plan for 2012-13 outlines in detail how we will support four primary goals: sustaining economic growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people, improving our quality of life, making life more affordable for Saskatchewan people, and delivering responsive and responsible government.

Our province's economic growth will be supported through legislative amendments that increase protections for investors and consumers and promote a favourable business environment in our province.

We will continue our efforts to reduce crime and improve public confidence in the justice system through a three-pronged approach of prevention, intervention and enforcement.

Our Ministry will also continue to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our programs and services to ensure the best use of public funds in serving the people of Saskatchewan.

We are pleased with our achievements so far. However, there is still work to be done. The Ministry is working collaboratively with other ministries, other levels of government, policing services, the judiciary, community-based organizations and the people of Saskatchewan to achieve our objectives of justice, fairness and accountability.

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General will continue to implement the key strategies within this Plan and will report on our progress in the 2012-13 Annual Report.

The Honourable Don Morgan, Q.C.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Response to Government Direction

Government has renewed its plan for 2012-13 to encourage and support the *Saskatchewan Advantage*. This plan reflects the Government's continued focus on economic growth, supporting the creation of new opportunities through strategic investments, ensuring that the prosperity is shared and our quality of life is enhanced. Government's key priorities and commitments have been supported in the context of a disciplined four-year fiscal plan and are presented in the *Government Direction for 2012-13*.

Government's Vision

"... a strong and growing Saskatchewan, the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Improving our quality of life	Making life more affordable	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Government's vision and four goals provide a directional framework for ministries, agencies and third parties to align with these priorities and to develop their plans to achieve greater success in the efficient delivery of government services.

All ministries and agencies will report on results achieved, or not yet achieved, in their 2012-13 annual reports. This honours Government's commitment to keep its promises and ensures greater transparency and accountability to the people of Saskatchewan.

Mission, Strategies and Actions

Mission Statement

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General has a responsibility to provide a fair justice system that upholds the law and protects the rights of all individuals in Saskatchewan. It will achieve this by fostering safe communities, access to justice, respect for the law, understanding of and confidence in the justice system, and by maintaining the legal foundation to foster social cohesion and economic prosperity. This means that the Ministry will:

- provide legal and policy services for government;
- provide mechanisms for resolving differences;
- foster understanding and ownership of the justice system;
- ensure appropriate enforcement of the law;
- provide a framework for commercial transactions;
- promote crime prevention;
- respond to the needs of victims of crime and adults and children in vulnerable circumstances; and,
- work collaboratively to address adverse conditions that bring people into contact with the justice system.

Ensuring **quality of life** with specific emphasis on making communities safe as well as providing services and supports for people in vulnerable circumstances is a priority with the Ministry.

Strategy

Reduce crime and improve public confidence in the justice system through prevention, intervention and enforcement

Key Actions

- As part of the High-Risk Violent Offender Crime Reduction Initiative with the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing (CPSP), provide a more focused, comprehensive response to a targeted group of adult serious high-risk violent offenders to respond more effectively to offenders placed on preventative recognizances and handle dangerous offender and long-term offender proceedings.
- Continue to improve the response to serious violent offending by developing a program to track information, monitor and hold serious violent offenders more accountable.
- With other ministries, support the Prince Albert Community Mobilization Project and explore opportunities to expand the model across the province.
- With CPSP, police agencies and the federal government, continue to develop a violent crime reduction strategy using the approach described in the document *Building Partnerships to Reduce Crime*.
- Continue to work with the federal government to strengthen the criminal law and criminal process to deal with serious offenders, including changes in areas such as lawful access, drug and other criminal penalty reforms and *Youth Criminal Justice Act* reforms.
- With Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority, the Ministries of Health and CPSP, and with northern leaders, continue to develop a response to improve public awareness about responsible consumption of alcohol to reduce violent crime.

Photo credit: Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, Meadow Lake Court Hou

Key Actions Continued

- Continue to work with the Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons, with families of missing persons and other jurisdictions and organizations nationally and regionally to improve the response to missing person cases by implementing recommendations made in previous reports and identifying strategic issues.
- Continue to provide a continuum of service for victims and offenders in the criminal justice system by holding some offenders accountable through referrals to alternative measures programs offered by community-based programs and by providing training about the renewed ministerial orders related to alternative measures and extra-judicial sanctions.
- Continue to work with Alberta, British Columbia and Manitoba to develop common or complementary policies and operational and legislative approaches to reduce organized crime and gangs, with specific emphasis on issues related to safer communities referred to Western Ministers by Western Premiers in June 2011.

Strategy

Improve policies, services, supports and infrastructure to increase public confidence, efficiency and justice for all people in Saskatchewan

Key Actions

- As part of the Saskatchewan Child and Youth Agenda, enhance services and policies for children and families by continuing the pilot project in Regina to provide Aboriginal courtworker services to assist families in understanding child protection situations and adding additional pilot projects in Saskatoon and Prince Albert.
- Develop legislation and regulations to implement lobbying rules and a registry in Saskatchewan, if recommended by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.
- Expand the Restitution Civil Enforcement Program province-wide in order to increase the capacity of the Ministry to effectively enforce restitution orders on behalf of victims of crime.
- Continue to work with CPSP, the federal government and other jurisdictions to improve the seizure of assets/ proceeds of crime or items that pose a threat to public safety.
- With CPSP and police services, continue to respond to the findings of the evaluation of the videoconferencing initiative, including potential expansion of videoconferencing sites.
- Continue to improve the administrative organization of the Justice of the Peace program that provides an entry point for the criminal justice system in order to enable it to better meet the needs of those involved.
- Continue to pilot an electronic ticketing initiative with police to improve processing time for offence tickets.
- In collaboration with police agencies, continue to develop a provincial strategy to track and store unidentified human remains.
- Continue to provide funding to support legal advice for vulnerable Saskatchewan people through the Community Legal Services for Saskatoon Inner City Incorporated (CLASSIC).
- Continue to work with the federal government and other partners to create a child support recalculation program that reviews and adjusts court-ordered child support based on current income tax information.

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan, Hans-Gerhard Pfaff, Saskatchewan Legislative Building

Strategy

Improve access to services and supports for victims of crime

Key Actions

- Achieve the long-term goal of ensuring that basic services are available to meet the needs of victims throughout Saskatchewan.
- As part of the Saskatchewan Child and Youth Agenda, implement the Northern Transportation and Safety Initiative to increase victim safety in the north by providing transitional support and funding for emergency transportation and supplies when victims must leave unsafe circumstances and resources to return to the community when danger to the victim is reduced.
- Finalize the review of the Victims Compensation Program and undertake the necessary legislative and regulatory amendments and efficiency changes to enhance it.
- With police services and other partners, develop an implementation plan to establish a central registry for protection orders in Saskatchewan to provide easily accessible information to police about non-contact conditions and to enable timely victim notification when circumstances change in criminal or family court matters.
- Continue to effectively manage the Victims' Fund to ensure timely, appropriate response to the needs of victims of crime through the 50 programs in 37 agencies offering services including crisis intervention, financial compensation, support throughout the criminal justice process and public education.
- Strengthen delivery and support of standardized training for staff and volunteers in existing victim services programs.
- Continue to expand access to videoconferencing technology to allow child victims and other vulnerable witnesses to testify from outside courtrooms.
- Continue to work with police partners and victim services programs to revise policies and procedures to ensure compliance with the amendments to *The Victims of Crime Act, 1995* made in 2011-12 that support police sharing victims' information with police-based victim services programs.

Strategy

Support adults and children in vulnerable circumstances by providing program services and supports

Key Actions

- As part of the Saskatchewan Child and Youth Agenda, develop approaches to support counsel for children involved in protection proceedings.
- Continue to participate with other ministries in responding to the recommendations of the Child Welfare Review by analyzing, implementing and monitoring responses to child welfare that may have an impact on the justice system.
- Implement amendments to *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act* to facilitate the implementation of the new Maintenance Enforcement computer system.

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatoon, City of Bridg

Key Actions Continued

- Undertake a review of *The Coroners Act, 1999* and *The Coroners Regulations, 2000* to better serve the public need for independent and impartial investigations into, and public inquests respecting, the circumstances surrounding unexpected, unexplained and unnatural death.
- Continue to support the development, delivery and funding of programs to address interpersonal violence and abuse, including 40 services delivered by 34 community-based organizations in 17 communities.
- Continue to review and consult on legislation affecting vulnerable adults.
- Continue to work with other governments to implement changes in family law, including *The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Act* amendments and developing the Canadian response to the International Convention on Parenting.
- Continue to deliver family justice services that include the enforcement of maintenance payments, parent education programs, custody and access assessments, and supervised access and exchange programs.
- Continue to provide family mediation services to assist parents in resolving parenting issues in a positive child-centered manner.

Photo Credit: Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, photo by Paul Austring, Blue Sky over Duck Mountain

Fostering **growth and opportunities** in Saskatchewan requires the Ministry to create and maintain a favourable environment for investors, consumers and businesses.

Strategy

Increase protections for investors and consumers, and assure the integrity of Canada's capital markets

Key Actions

- Transfer responsibility for the activities of the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission (SFSC) to a Treasury Board Crown Corporation to improve its flexibility to respond to emerging business and consumer issues.
- With the credit union system, continue to implement changes to *The Credit Union Act* to facilitate Credit Union Central's restructuring plans.
- Continue to implement amendments to *The Securities Act, 1988* that will support the work of the Canadian Public Accountability Board, and authorize the SFSC to regulate credit rating organizations.
- Continue to work with the national working group to implement the harmonized legislation developed in 2011-12 that allows financial advisors dealing in securities to incorporate.

Strategy

Promote a favourable business environment and better protect consumers by improving legislation

Key Actions

- Develop and implement a statutory framework recognizing pooled registered pension plans to provide employees of small businesses and self-employed individuals a further opportunity to adequately prepare for retirement.
- Build a framework for consumer protection legislation that includes a review of the regulation of business practices for inclusion in *The Consumer Protection Act*.
- Continue to implement amendments to *The Pension Benefits Act, 1992* to ease the regulatory burden affecting the establishment and administration of multi-jurisdictional pension plans.
- Continue to develop amendments to *The Condominium Property Act, 1993* to address issues raised in consultations with industry and consumers, including with respect to insurance and bylaw development and enforcement.
- Work with other provinces to examine options for regulating travel agencies to enhance consumer protection.

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan, Hans-Gerhard Pfaff, Downtown Reg

Ensuring adherence to the rule of law and maintaining and monitoring program funding is a priority for the Ministry and for **responsive and responsible government.**

Strategy

Ensure that the administration of public affairs is within the rule of law[1]

Key Actions

- Continue to provide legal and policy advice and services to Government to ensure its operations comply with the rule of law.
- Continue to offer government ministries and agencies and others advice on dispute resolution processes and assistance in resolving public policy issues.
- Continue to offer government ministries and agencies and local authorities administrative and policy advice to improve compliance with access and privacy laws.

Strategy

Negotiate key federal/provincial agreements to benefit Saskatchewan people

Key Actions

- Continue to work with provincial/territorial and federal partners to ensure adequate levels of support for civil and criminal legal aid, particularly in response to renewal of federal funding in April 2012.
- Continue to partner with Justice Canada to ensure the delivery of community justice programs through the implementation of new programs and funding resulting from the federal funding renewal in April 2012.
- Continue to work with other provincial/territorial governments, particularly in Western Canada on issues of mutual concern, such as organized crime.

[1] *The rule of law means that the Government and all citizens are subject to the law and must operate according to its terms.*

Photo Credit: Ministry of Government Services, Swift Current Court House

Strategy

Increase participation of Aboriginal people in justice system delivery to deal with criminal justice issues

Key Actions

- Support Government in implementing the First Nations and Métis Consultation Policy Framework.
- Continue to access advice from Elders on justice reform and on existing policies, programs and services.
- With First Nations and Métis peoples and organizations and CPSP, design a work plan to assist community-based programs in the development, implementation and delivery of community-based justice services.

Strategy

Build knowledge about partnership and collaboration in government and community

Key Actions

- Through a partnership with the Johnson Shoyama School of Public Policy, participate in planning and delivering the 2012 justice symposium on community engagement to support safe communities.

Photo Credit: Ministry of Government Services, North Battleford Court Hou

Strategy

Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Ministry's programs and services to ensure the best use of public funds

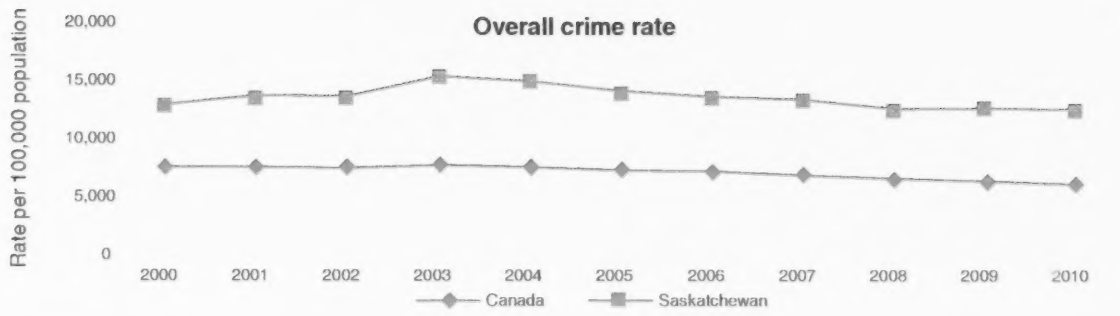
Key Actions

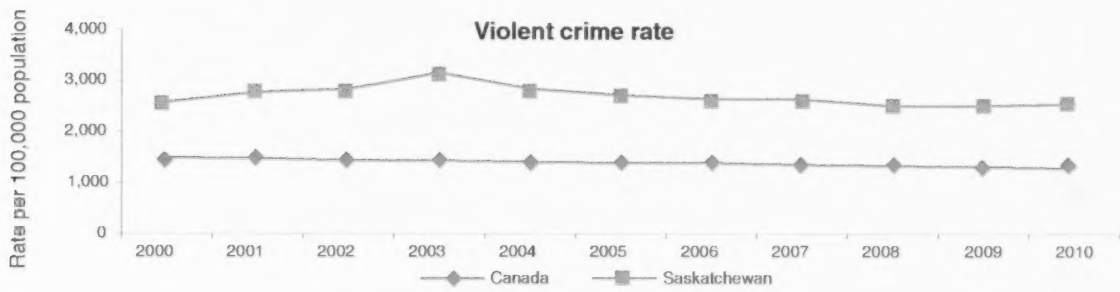
- In response to a Lean project, develop and implement a new application system and electronic transfer of records in the Office of Residential Tenancies.
- Develop a new Coroner Information System.
- Conduct program evaluations of:
  - the Regina Domestic Violence Court; and,
  - with Justice Canada, the Victim Impact Statement Initiative.
- Continue implementation of conflict resolution training for staff in the Office of Residential Tenancies to facilitate a process that can assist parties in conflict to resolve problems directly without the need for hearings.
- Continue to improve and streamline the delivery of court services in the Provincial Court.
- Continue to respond to the Provincial Court operations program review by developing a manual and training plan for provincial court employees and implementing succession plans for managerial retirements occurring in Provincial Court.
- Continue to work with administrative tribunals to improve their policies and procedures, as recommended by the Ombudsman's report, *Hearing Back: Piecing together Timeliness in Saskatchewan's Administrative Tribunals*.
- With other ministries and community partners, continue to develop a provincial mass fatality plan including a national disaster response strategy.
- In partnership with CPSP and the Information Technology Office, continue to reform the courts and corrections information databases and improve efficiency through the Criminal Justice Information Management System (CJIMS) for implementation of the first set of core modules in 2014.

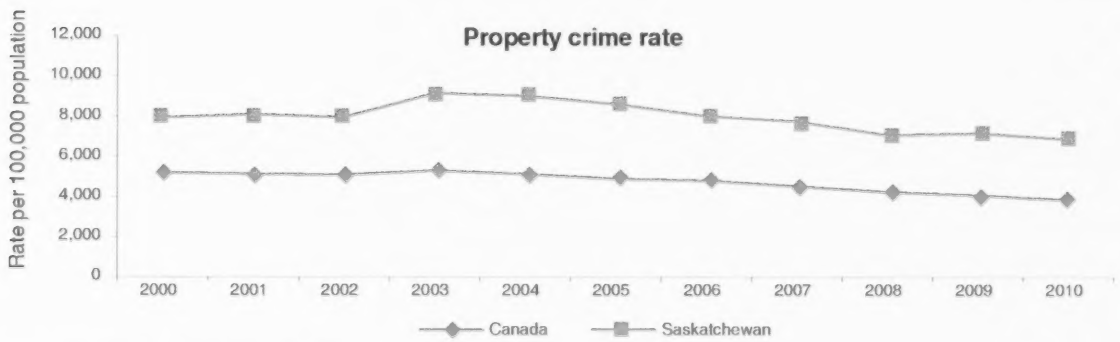
Performance Measures

Measure

Crime rates







Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident Based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2), 2010.

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan, Hans-Gerhard Ptaff, Victoria Park, Downtown Reg

Measure Description

These measures are of interest to the Ministry and to government, as they provide a measure of the well-being of society and drive much of what is done in the criminal justice system. Generally speaking, crime rates provide information on how much and what type of crime is being experienced in communities. These measures support the Government's goal of quality of life and the Ministry's strategy to reduce crime and improve public confidence in the justice system through prevention, intervention and enforcement.

While the crime rate is often thought of as a justice sector issue and is a crucial consideration in justice planning, the root causes of crime are much broader, requiring integrated, comprehensive planning, funding and resources across sectors. Most of the factors influencing crime rates are out of the direct control of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, though the Ministry needs to be able to respond to offending and victimization effectively. Crime rates do not describe how well criminal justice institutions are responding to crime.

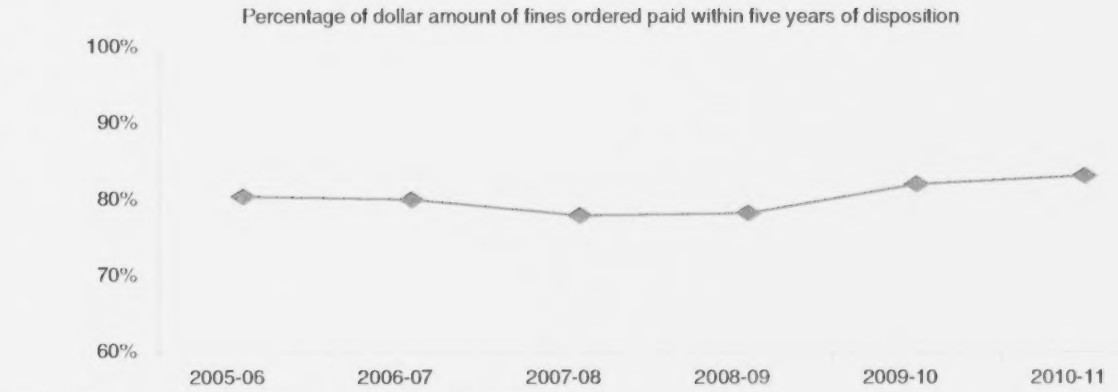
In 2010, among the provinces, Saskatchewan had the highest overall, violent and property crime rates as well as the highest overall crime severity and second highest violent crime severity. Saskatchewan crime numbers continue to be cause for deep concern in spite of the decrease in overall reported crime and crime severity in recent years; and, slightly less than one-third of complaints that come to the attention of police will result in criminal charges. Most justice system funding and resources are used to respond to offending and victimization through enforcement and prosecution of offenders, or in working to reduce the risk of crime and increase public safety in other ways, such as community justice and crime prevention programming.

The graphs represent the most recent data available. Data from 2011 will not be available from the Canadian Centre of Justice Statistics (CCJS) until July 2012.

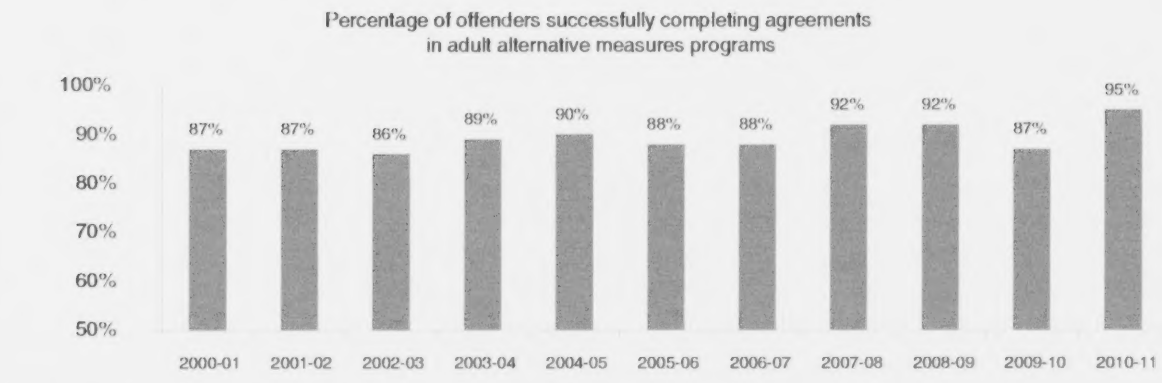
Photo Credit: Ministry of Government Services, Yorkton Court House Interior

Measure

Offender accountability



Source: Court Services, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, 2012



Source: Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, 2012

Photo Credit: Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, photo by Paul Austring, Buffalo Narro

Measure Description

These measures are of interest to the Ministry and government, as they demonstrate the degree to which offenders are held accountable for their actions by the criminal justice system. Holding offenders accountable for their actions is a critical component of community safety. The Ministries of Justice and Attorney General, and CPSP work together to hold offenders accountable in three ways: custodial sentences and community supervision orders; financial commitments; and community justice programs. These measures support the Government's goal of quality of life and the Ministry's strategy to reduce crime and improve public confidence in the justice system through prevention, intervention and enforcement.

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General is responsible for fine collection, which is reported in the first measure above. Offenders can be ordered to pay fines as part of their sentences. Because offenders sometimes require time to pay fines, this measure is reported over a five-year time range as a percentage paid of the dollar amount of fines ordered in a specific fiscal year (e.g., payments for fines ordered in 2004-05 would be reported for the following five fiscal years). This value has been fairly constant, ranging from 78 per cent to 83 per cent over the last six reporting periods. The increases, from 78 per cent in 2008-09 to 82 per cent in 2009-10 to 83 per cent in 2010-11, can be attributed in part to the establishment of the Fine Collection Branch in 2008-09 and the implementation of the agreement between the Ministry and the Canada Revenue Agency to garnish GST rebates and income tax refunds.

Although the Ministry continues to attempt to have as much influence as possible over fine collection, the Ministry has a low-to-moderate influence over this measure. Factors such as the employment status and ability of the individual to pay are out of the Ministry's control.

The second measure provides data on offenders' successful completion of agreements in adult community justice alternative measures programs that are the responsibility of the Ministry. Alternative measures programs provide an option within the criminal justice system that allows crime to be addressed outside of the formal court system. People accused of a criminal offence who take responsibility for their conduct may be offered the opportunity to address the harm caused by their actions by participating in diversion, mediation or conferences through a community-based program.

The 2010-11 data (most recent data available) continues to show that over the years adult offenders have had a consistently high level of success in these programs, ranging from 86 per cent to 95 per cent completing agreements.

The Ministry has a low level of influence over the outcome of this measure. The following determinants have been identified as affecting program success, all outside the control of the Ministry:

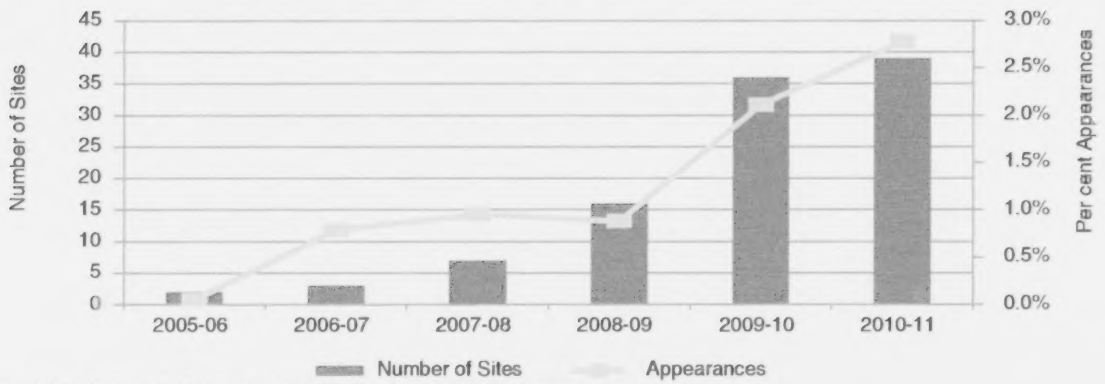
- offender attitudes, values, beliefs, cognitive challenges and addictions;
- available treatment services and programs;
- family and social supports;
- educational/employment opportunities; and,
- changing police practice.

As well, this performance measure depends on external variables, such as the willingness of participants to reach agreements and the skills of the mediator/facilitator. This type of justice intervention may not have a long-term impact on some offenders if lifestyle conditions and supports remain unchanged. However, research and evaluation projects have shown that participants in alternative measures programs are less likely to re-offend than a cohort group of offenders who did not participate in this type of program.

Photo Credit: Ministry of Government Services, Yorkton Court House

Measure

Number of videoconferencing sites and per cent appearances via videoconferencing



Source: Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, 2011

Measure Description

This measure is of interest to the Ministry and government, as videoconferencing technology reduces costs of prisoner and witness transport and assists in ensuring Saskatchewan is a secure place to live. It directly connects to the Government's goal of quality of life and the Ministry's strategy to improve policies, services, supports and infrastructure to increase public confidence, efficiency and justice for all people in Saskatchewan.

Videoconferencing with accused is primarily used to facilitate court appearances without transporting prisoners, witnesses, judges, Crown prosecutors and defence counsel. It can be used for a variety of court experiences, such as first appearances, adjournments, bail hearings and remote appearances by witnesses and counsel. The use of videoconferencing sites reduces transportation and security concerns, increases access to justice, reduces transportation costs, and reduces court time and inconvenience to judges, counsel, the police and offenders.

The two indicators identified here, number of sites and per cent appearances, show the extent to which the initiative has been implemented and used. As shown, use has increased over the years. Since 2006, when the first video-conferencing equipment was installed in the Saskatoon Provincial Court and in the Saskatoon Correctional Centre, expansion has taken place in 39 sites to enable appearances of accused. As well, with the assistance of federal funding, equipment has been installed in eight soft rooms[1] to enable testimonies by children and other vulnerable witnesses. In addition, 27 interview rooms have been equipped with video units. Increased use is also demonstrated by the increase in percentage of appearances occurring by video.

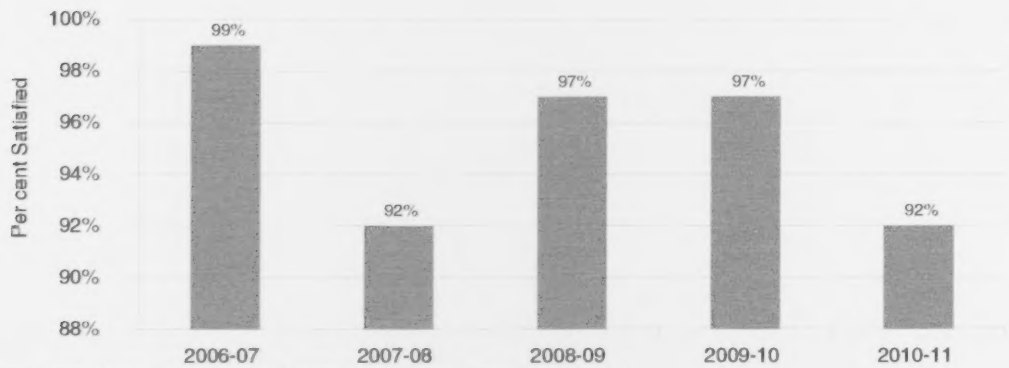
The Ministry has a high level of control over this measure, as it relates to the installation of videoconferencing equipment, but the Ministry has little control over the frequency with which videoconferencing is used as use requires the agreement of the parties involved.

[1] Victim/witness soft rooms provide a waiting area in court primarily for women and children who feel safer in a separate area. These rooms reduce the trauma experienced by victims, thereby contributing to the quality of evidence they are able to give.

Photo Credit: Ministry of Government Services, Swift Current Court Ho

Measure

Satisfaction with police-based victim services programs



Source: Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, 2011

Measure Description

This measure is of interest to the Ministry and government as it demonstrates the Ministry's commitment to providing effective services and supports to victims of crime throughout the criminal justice process. This supports the Government's goal of quality of life and the Ministry's strategy to improve access to services and supports for victims of crime.

Eighteen police-based programs serve victims of crime directly and cover 87 per cent of the Saskatchewan population and 68 per cent of police jurisdictions (RCMP and municipal). For eight years prior to 2008-09 the programs served 80 per cent of the population. In 2008-09 services were expanded to new areas and the per cent population served increased by seven per cent. This has been maintained through 2011-12.

Funding for these programs comes from the Victims' Fund. Program expansion so that all Saskatchewan has access to a police-based program is a long-term goal of the Ministry and depends directly on the amount of revenue available to the Fund.

Photo Credit: Ministry of Government Services, Prince Albert Court House

Measure Description Continued

The police-based programs are very effective at serving victims of crime and traumatic events through crisis intervention, information about the impact of crime and victimization, support, and referrals to other services. Since 2006-07, an annual satisfaction survey has been conducted with clients of these programs. Reported results each year show that programs are meeting their mandates very effectively. The most recent data available are from 2010-11[1]:

- most respondents (92 per cent) reported that the supports and services provided by Victim Services met their needs, with 49 per cent reporting that they "more than met my needs";
- most respondents (92 per cent) reported that they were satisfied with the supports and services provided by Victim Services;
- almost all respondents (98 per cent) felt they were treated with courtesy and respect and compassion (96 per cent); and
- almost all (98 per cent) reported that Victim Services people were non-judgmental.

Factors that may affect people's perception of the program include: timeliness of response, frequency of contact, nature of services provided, the needs of the victim, the expectations of the victim about the role of victims services and their expectations for the criminal justice process.

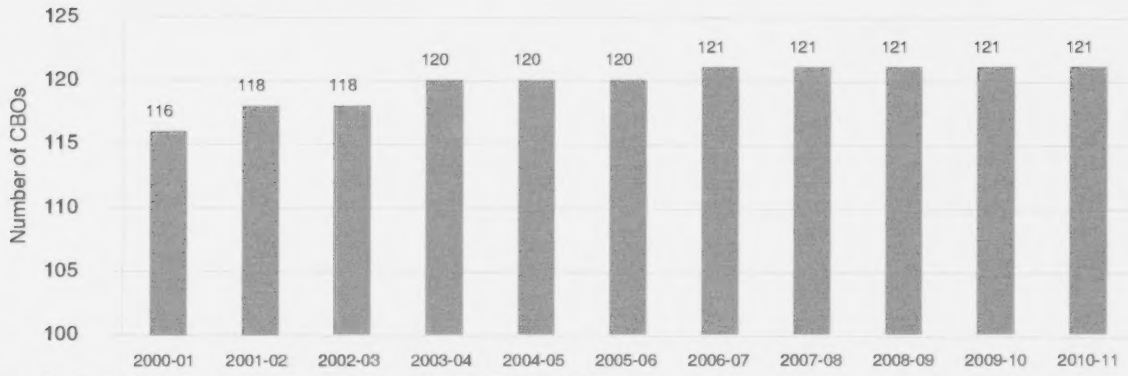
The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General has a moderate level of control over these measures. The programs are delivered in partnership with the local police service. RCMP-based programs operate with non-profit community-based boards.

[1] *Due to an error, these numbers are different from those included in the Police-Based Victims Services Programs Client Survey, 2010-2011 report. The numbers reported here are correct.*

Photo Credit: Ministry of Government Services, Prince Albert Court House Inter

Measure

Community-based organizations engaged in crime prevention activities



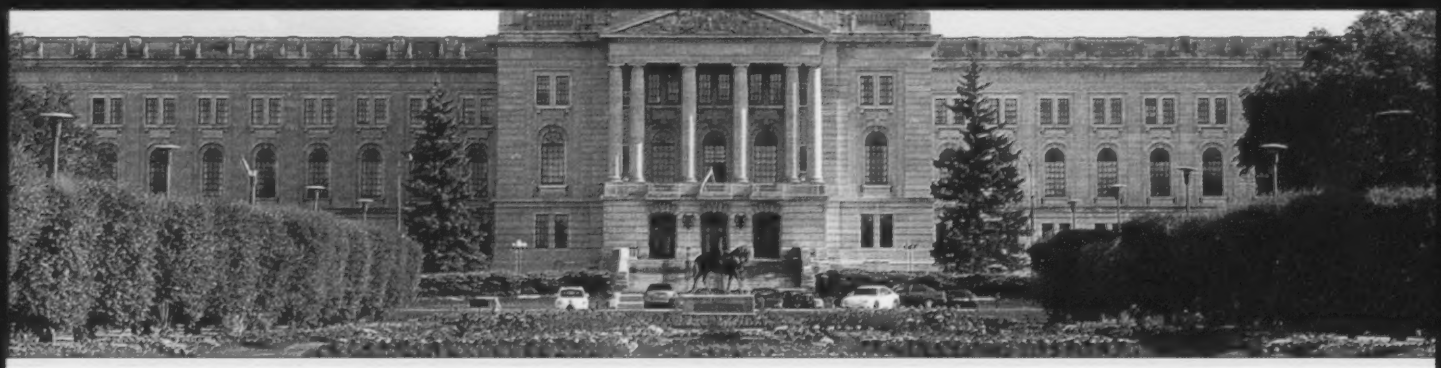
Source: Community Justice Division, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, 2011

Measure Description

This measure is of interest to the Ministry and government because it demonstrates the extent of partnerships and relationships between the Ministry and community-based organizations (CBOs) offering justice-related programs within Saskatchewan communities. Partnering with CBOs is a critical pillar of community justice activity and provides a measure of community engagement in crime prevention. This measure supports the Government's goal of quality of life and the Ministry's strategy to reduce crime and improve public confidence in the justice system through prevention, intervention and enforcement.

The number of communities engaged in crime prevention activities with the Ministry has remained fairly constant since 2003-04. These programs include community justice programs, victim services programs, crime prevention programs and family violence prevention and crisis response programs.

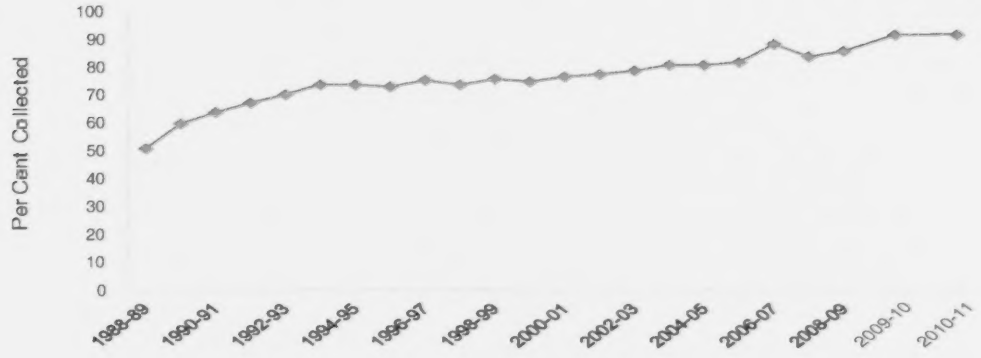
Implementation of the community-based model the Ministry uses to promote community justice takes time. Community readiness is a critical factor because the community has a vital role in developing these programs to support a response to criminal behaviour and victimization that meets locally determined needs. The Ministry has a high level of influence over the measure, as the Ministry often initiates and supports community participation through CBOs throughout the province. Examples include the Rainbow Youth Centre in Regina and the Prince Albert Outreach Program.



Tourism Saskatchewan, Greg Huszar Photography, Saskatchewan Legislative Building

Measure

Collection of support payments for children and families



Source: Maintenance Enforcement Office, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, 2011

Measure Description

Maintenance enforcement orders and agreements for financial support are issued following a divorce or separation. The health and well-being of the families depend on timely receipt of support income to which they are entitled. This measure connects with the Ministry's strategy to support adults and children in vulnerable circumstances by providing program services and supports.

This performance measure provides evidence that the Saskatchewan Maintenance Enforcement Office (MEO) has consistently improved its rate of collection over the long term since it was first opened in the 1987-88 fiscal year. For the past five years, the MEO has maintained a collection rate of over 80 per cent. In the last two years, the rate has risen to over 90 per cent. In 2010-11, the MEO collected 91.3 per cent of monies owed in maintenance and enforcement orders and agreements referred to it. This gave the MEO the second highest collection rate in Canada behind Quebec.

The Ministry has a high level of influence over this measure. It can enforce orders through garnishment of wages, bank accounts, and federal government payments, such as Employment Insurance, Canada Pension payments, Old Age Security, income tax refunds or GST credits. It is always looking for new ways to ensure the successful collection of monies owed.

Financial Summary

2012-13 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services (JU01)	21,616
Courts and Civil Justice (JU03)	52,834
Legal and Policy Services (JU04)	30,258
Community Justice (JU05)	19,908
Boards and Commissions (JU08)	26,939
Courts Capital (JU11)	14,525
Total Appropriation	**166,080**
Capital Asset Acquisition	(14,525)
Capital Amortization	1,003
TOTAL EXPENSE	**152,558**

Ministry FTE	**785.7**
Revolving Fund FTE	**58.3**

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.finance.gov.sk.ca/budget2012-13

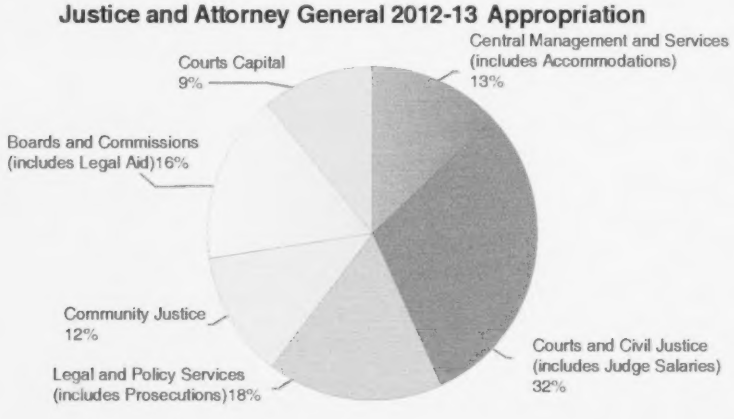

Justice and Attorney General 2012-13 Appropriation
Central Management and Services (includes Accommodations) 13%
Courts Capital 9%
Boards and Commissions (includes Legal Aid)16%
Community Justice 12%
Legal and Policy Services (includes Prosecutions)18%
Courts and Civil Justice (includes Judge Salaries) 32%

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan, David Buckley, Canoeing, MacFarlane Riv

Highlights

Key highlights in the 2012-13 Plan for the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General include:

- $700,000 to support implementation of the Serious Violent Offender Response starting in October as part of the Government's election commitment to respond to serious violent crime.
- Funding will be made available from the Victims' Fund to provide expansion across the province for victims' services.
- Continue the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission as a Treasury Board Crown Corporation in order to respond to the needs of our growing economy.
- As part of Government's commitment to support CBOs, Justice-funded CBOs will see an increase of 1.6 per cent at a cost of $309,000. This funding goes towards community service delivery such as alternative measures and crime prevention.
- Court Services and Prosecutions have seen their budgets increase a total of $4.4M which reflects the growing workload for these areas.

For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at www.justice.gov.sk.ca or contact (306) 787-0775 for additional information on the Ministry's programs and services.

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Canola and flax fields	*Biking, Narrow Hills Provincial Park*	*Motherwell Homestead National Historic Site of Canada*	*Saskatchewan Legislative Building*
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